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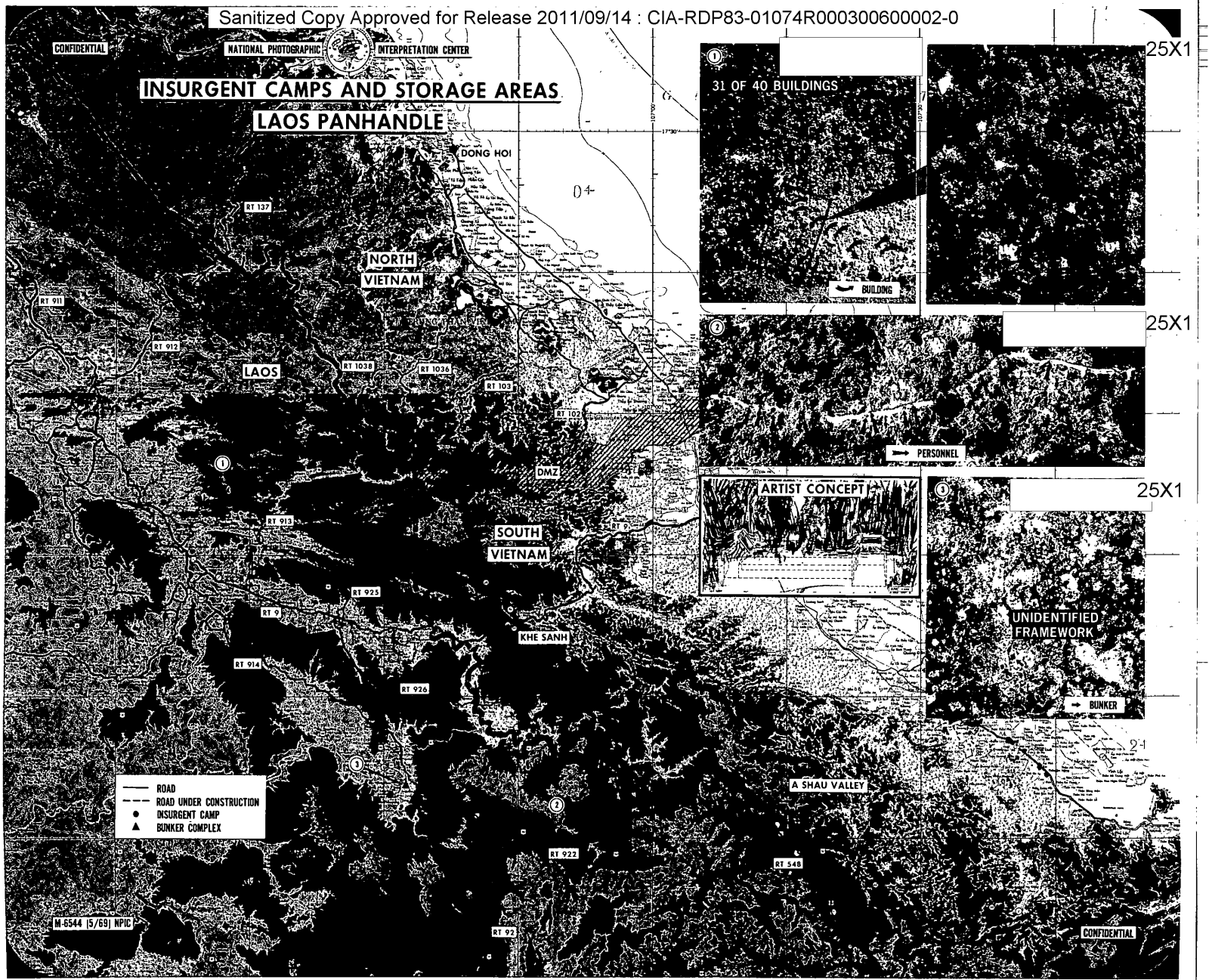

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ATTACHMENT TO M-6544
20 MAY 1969
PAGE 1

25X1

INSURGENT CAMPS AND STORAGE AREAS
LAOS PANHANDLE
VARIOUS

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS NUMEROUS SIGHTINGS OF INSURGENT CAMPS AND STORAGE AREAS IN THE VICINITY OF THE LAOTIAN PANHANDLE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK.

2. LOCATION:

LAOTIAN PANHANDLE

3. BACKGROUND:

THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF INSURGENT MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE LAOTIAN PANHANDLE - HIGHLIGHTED BY NEWLY OBSERVED INSURGENT CAMPS, STORAGE AREAS, AND INCREASED TRAIL USAGE. THE MAJORITY OF THIS ACTIVITY IS FOCUSED AROUND THE SEPONE AREA AND ALONG LAOS ROUTES 92 AND 922, BOTH OF WHICH PASS THROUGH WELL ESTABLISHED COMMUNIST BASE AREAS. PERSONNEL HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN OBSERVED ON THE TRAILS IN THESE AREAS, OFTEN IN NUMBERS EXCEEDING 25 (PHOTO #2).

4. MISSION READOUT:

THIRTY-FOUR INSURGENT CAMPS (SHOWN ON MAP), WITH A TOTAL OF AT LEAST 483 BUILDINGS, HAVE BEEN RECENTLY IDENTIFIED IN THE PANHANDLE AREA. A TOTAL OF 20 BUILDINGS (10 IN EACH OF 2 CAMPS IN THE SEPONE AREA) ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION. THESE CAMPS, PROBABLY USED FOR REST/RECUPERATION AND STORAGE,

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GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

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ARE DISPERSED ALONG WELL-USED TRAILS AND ARE OFTEN NEAR TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINES. THE CAMPS ARE GENENERALLY LOCATED IN REMOTE AREAS AWAY FROM THE MAJOR TRANSPORTATION NETWORK AND HAVE NOT BEEN SUBJECTED TO AIRSTRIKES. PHOTO #1 DEPICTS A TYPICAL CAMP IN A HEAVILY FORESTED AREA.

PHOTO #3 DEPICTS BUNKERS OF THE TYPE OBSERVED IN MANY PLACES ALONG ROUTE 922, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIVE MAIN COMPLEXES SHOWN ON THE MAP. THESE ARE BELIEVED TO BE USED PRIMARILY FOR STORAGE. THE BUNKERS USUALLY HAVE REINFORCED RECTANGULAR ENTRANCES AND APPEAR TO BE VERY DEEP. THE ENTRANCES, AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE ARTIST'S SKETCH, ARE CONSTRUCTED EITHER FLUSH WITH THE GROUND OR DOOR-LIKE INTO THE SIDES OF MOUNDS. AIRSTRIKES ON SIMILAR FACILITIES HAVE OFTEN EXPOSED EXTENSIVE UNDERLYING TUNNELS AND CAVERNS.

5. REMARKS:

THE SEPONE AREA IS A WELL-ESTABLISHED COMMUNIST BASE AREA AND SEPONE HAS BEEN REPORTED TO BE THE HEADQUARTERS WHERE MILITARY LOGISTICAL ACTIVITY IN THE LAOS PANHANDLE HAS BEEN COORDINATED. THE AREA IN AND AROUND THE INTERSECTION OF ROUTES 92 AND 922, AND IN PARTICULAR, THE AREA ALONG ROUTE 922 TO THE SOUTH VIETNAM BORDER, HAS LONG BEEN RECOGNIZED AS AN AREA WHERE NUMEROUS TRUCK PARKS, REST AND RECUPERATION AREAS, AND STORAGE AREAS ARE LOCATED.

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MAP REFERENCE: AMS SERIES JOG (A) 1501, SHEET NE 48-11, 3RD ED.
AMS SERIES JOG (A) 1501, SHEET NE 48-12, 3RD ED.
AMS SERIES JOG (A) 1501, SHEET NE 48-15, 3RD ED.
AMS SERIES JOG (A) 1501, SHEET NE 48-16, 3RD ED.

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